

La Bergerie/Rokeby
River Road
Barrytown Vicinity
Dutchess County
New York

HABS No. NY-5623

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LA BERGERIE/ROKEBY

HABS No. NY-5623

Location: River Road, Barrytown Vicinity, Red Hook Township, Dutchess County, New York.

Present Owners and Occupants: Susan Kean Cutler Aldrich (Mrs. Richard Chanler Aldrich), Richard Aldrich, John Winthrop Aldrich, and Rosalind Fish Aldrich Michahelles (Mrs. Michele Michahelles).

Present Use: Residence and Farm.

Statement of Significance: Occupying a site adjacent to the Hudson River, this fine mansion with its unusual plan has remained within the Livingston family since its construction. Begun in 1811 and finished after the War of 1812 for General John Armstrong, Jr., La Bergerie was a large square Federal style house. The house received a library with tower, mansard roof and service wing in 1857-1858. Renovations were designed by the architect Stanford White in 1895. Landscaping was carried out by Hans Jacob Ehlers during the 1840s and was improved by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., in 1909-1912. Rokeby is one of twenty-one contiguous estates along the east bank of the Hudson River between Staatsburg and Tivoli, New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: La Bergerie was erected between 1811-1815. Construction was interrupted by the War of 1812 when John Armstrong, the owner, served as a Brigadier General and later as Secretary of War.
2. Architect: None known, but evidence suggests that the overall plan was designed by John Armstrong.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following individuals are mentioned in the chain of title:
 - a. Margaret Livingston (1724-1800), the former Margaret Beekman, was sole heir of Henry Beekman (1688-1776) from whom she inherited considerable land along the Hudson. She married Judge Robert Livingston (1718-1775).
 - b. Alida Livingston Armstrong (1761-1822) was the youngest daughter of Judge Robert and Margaret Livingston and the wife of John Armstrong, Jr. (1758-1845).

- c. Catherine Livingston (1752-1849) was the third daughter of Judge Robert and Margaret Livingston.
- d. John Armstrong, Jr., was the son of Major General John and Rebecca Lyon Armstrong of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
- e. William Backhouse Astor (1792-1875) married Margaret Rebecca Armstrong (1800-1872), the youngest child of Alida and John Armstrong. William B. Astor, the son and principal heir of John Jacob Astor, successfully increased his fortune from \$20,000,000 to \$100,000,000.
- f. Margaret Astor Ward (1839-1875) married the Hon. John Winthrop Chanler, a member of Congress. Their children were:
 - 1) William Astor Chanler (1867-1934)
 - 2) Elizabeth Winthrop Chanler (1866-1937)
 - 3) Winthrop Astor Chanler (1863-1926)
 - 4) Alida Beekman Chanler (1873-1969)
 - 5) Robert Winthrop Chanler (1872-1930)
 - 6) Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler (1869-1912)
 - 7) Margaret Livingston Chanler (1870-1963)
 - 8) John Armstrong Chanler (1862-1935)
- g. Margaret Livingston Chanler (1870-1963) married Richard Aldrich (1863-1937) in 1906. Their son, Richard Chanler Aldrich (1909-1961) married Susan Kean Cutler Aldrich (1914-19). Their children are:
 - 1) Richard Aldrich (1940-)
 - 2) John Winthrop Aldrich (1942-)
 - 3) Rosalind Fish Aldrich Michahelles (1947-

The Chain of title includes:

- 1790 Deed February 2, 1790 recorded April 4, 1825 in Book 33 page 6
Margaret Livingston
to
Alida Armstrong for 10 shillings and natural affection in confirmation of the last will and testament of Henry Beekman, father of the grantor, parcels including Lot 3 of the Schuyler Patent in Dutchess County, New York, which is the site of Rokeby.
- 1790 Deed June 4, 1790 recorded April 4, 1825 in Book 33 page 9
John Armstrong, Jr. and Alida Armstrong, his wife
to
Catherine Livingston for 8,000, parcels including Rokeby.

- 1790 Deed June 15, 1790 recorded April 4, 1825 in Book 33 page 12
Catherine Livingston
to
John Armstrong, Jr. for 8,000, parcels including Rokeby.
- 1836 Deed June 25, 1836 recorded July 12, 1836 in Book 59 page 537
John Armstrong
to
William B. Astor for \$50,000, including parcels with Rokeby,
". . . the farm or country seat on which said party of the
first part now resides"
- William Backhouse Astor's (1792-1875) daughter Emily (1819-1839)
married Samuel Ward, Jr., in 1838. They had only one child,
Margaret Astor Ward (1839-1875) who married John Winthrop Chanler
in January 1862. Astor died in November 1875 and his granddaughter
one month later. According to family information, Astor left
Rokeby to Margaret Astor Ward Chanler who in turn left the property
to her children. The intent of the bequest was to leave Rokeby to
their oldest son, John Armstrong Chanler. As a result of the
Chanlers' deaths, guardians were appointed to raise the children at
Rokeby. (These bequests and transactions are not recorded in
either the clerk's or surrogate's offices in Dutchess County; the
estates were probated in New York City.) Provisions of William
Backhouse Astor's will are discussed in Parlor Table Companion (New
York: G.W. Carleton & Co., 1877) and Harvey O'Connor's The Astors
(New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1941).
- 1891 Deed October 2, 1891 recorded October 10, 1891 in Book 260
page 90
William Astor Chanler
to
Elizabeth W. Chanler for \$10.00, quitclaim to Rokeby.
- 1894 Deed June 25, 1894 recorded June 28, 1894 in Book 275 page 307
Winthrop Astor Chanler and Margaret T. Chanler, his wife
to
Alida B. Chanler for \$10.00, quitclaim to Rokeby.
- 1893 Deed November 10, 1893 recorded November 23, 1894 in Book 277
page 259
Robert Winthrop Chanler and Julia Chanler, his wife
to
Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler for \$10.00, quitclaim to Rokeby.
- 1895 Deed January 18, 1895 recorded January 31, 1895 in Book 279
page 216
Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler and Alice Chanler, his wife
to
Margaret L. Chanler for \$10.00, quitclaim to Rokeby

- 1894 Deed June 15, 1894 recorded February 18, 1895 in Book 279 page 321
John Armstrong Chanler and Amelie Rives Chanler, his wife
to
Elizabeth Winthrop Chanler, Margaret Livingston Chanler, and
Alida Beekman Chanler for \$1.00, quitclaim to Rokeby.
- 1899 Deed March 20, 1899 recorded March 30, 1899 in Book 300 page 395
Elizabeth W. Chapman
to
Margaret L. Chanler for \$10.00, quitclaim to Rokeby.
- 1899 Deed March 20, 1899 recorded March 30, 1899 in Book 300 page 397
Alida E. Emmet
to
Margaret L. Chanler for \$10.00, quitclaim to Rokeby.
- 1940 Deed August 14, 1940 recorded November 13, 1940 in Book 586 page 503
Margaret L. Aldrich
to
Richard C. Aldrich for \$10.00 and conveys an undivided one-half interest in all her property in Dutchess County, New York.
- 1962 Deed February 2, 1962 recorded May 3, 1962 in Book 1078 page 54
Susan C. Aldrich, Charles S. McVeigh and Charles S. McVeigh, Jr., as executors of the estate of Richard C. Aldrich, deceased
to
Margaret L. Aldrich for \$55,000, an undivided half interest in all of Richard C. Aldrich's real and personal property in Dutchess County, New York, together with all right and title to same.
- 1965 Deed February 23, 1965 recorded March 2, 1965 in Book 1169 page 294
Charles S. McVeigh, Jr. and Guy G. Rutherford, executors of the estate of Margaret Livingston Aldrich
to
Richard Aldrich 675/1800 of a share, John Winthrop Aldrich 675/1800 of a share, and Susan Cutler Aldrich 450/1800 of a share for \$180,000, including land in Red Hook, Dutchess County, including Rokeby, in undivided shares as indicated.
- 1969 Deed September 29, 1969 recorded November 10, 1969 in Book 1276 page 840

John Winthrop Aldrich
to

Rosalind Alrich Michahelles for \$10.00, an undivided one-eight (1/8) or of property in Dutchess County, including Rokeby.

1969 Deed October 10, 1969 recorded November 10, 1969 in Book 1276
page 849

Richardd Aldrich
to

Rosalind Michahelles for \$10.00, an undivided one-eight (1/8) of property in Dutchess County, including Rokeby.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: By family tradition, Warner Richards, a Scot, was the master builder. In a letter dated October 4, 1798, John Armstrong told Rufus King's agent that "among the more useful people of this neighborhood, there is one who builds houses of all Descriptions by contract. He is faithful, expeditious, & skillful, & by no means wanting in professional taste."
5. Original plans and construction: The original house was a nearly square (61' by 63'), two story masonry structure with a three bay main facade and five bay side elevations. The middle three bays on each side were grouped. The roof had a skylight which lit an open central hall on the second floor. The first floor plan had a center entrance with a center hall with access to three rooms on each side. A curved staircase was located at the back of the hall. The staircase returned and opened into an interior rectangular hall, with a skylight, around which four of the six bedrooms were arranged. Now completely enclosed by later additions, a large straight entry stair led from grade to an elaborate door with sidelights at the second floor. On the other side of the door there now is a small vestibule, an arched passage, on axis, and a short flight of stairs down to the main stair.

After six years as minister to France, Armstrong evidently attempted to incorporate a piano nobile into La Bergerie's plan. Since the house was begun in 1811 but was interrupted by Armstrong's appointment as Secretary of War, Armstrong's original ideas about the house probably were changed or were abandoned.

6. Alterations and additions: In 1844 and 1849 Hans Jacob Ehlers (1803-1858) designed Rokeby's landscaping plan. Two of his drawings, one dated 1849, are owned by the Aldrich family at Rokeby; one describes the river side of the estate and the second the grounds around the entrance drive. A drawing by Ehlers' son Louis Augustus Ehlers (1835-1911) shows a small pond and waterfall near Rokeby's gate.

Ehlers was born in Schleswig-Holstein, a region long disputed by the Germans and Danes. He studied at the Forestry Academy at Kiel, served as manager of the Academy's arboretum and experimental gardens, and also was forester to the King of Denmark. Between 1838 and 1842 he emigrated to the United States. According to Margaret Livingston Chanler Aldrich, Ehlers met Sam Ward, Jr., son-in-law of William Backhouse Astor, on Ehler's voyage to America. Through this contact Ehlers came to work for the Astors at Rokeby.

In 1844 Ehlers' work at Rokeby was criticized by A.J. Downing in the second edition of A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening in America (1844). Downing did not identify the individual by name, but Downing's description of the design is very close to the undated Ehlers drawing of Rokeby's river side. Downing wrote,

a foreign soi-disant [self-styled] landscape gardener has completely spoiled the simply grand beauty of a fine river residence by cutting up the breadth of a fine lawn with a ridiculous effort at what he considered a very charming arrangement of walks and groups of trees. In this case he only followed a mode sufficiently common and appropriate in a level inland country like that of Germany, from whence he introduced it, but entirely out of keeping with the bold and lake-like features of the landscape which he thus made discordant.

Ehlers did not publish a rebuttal until 1852, a pamphlet entitled Defence against Slander and Abuse, with some Strictures on Mr. Downing's Book on Landscape Gardening. The immediate cause for publication was a dispute over Ehlers' fee for work at Montgomery Place, the famed Hudson estate north of Rokeby. It has been proposed to let Downing arbitrate the dispute, and Ehlers took action against what he considered the hostile pairing of Thomas Barton, his displeased patron, and Downing.

Considering the chronology of the Montgomery Place dispute, it appears that Ehlers designed Rokeby's landscape plan in two phases. One, completed before Downing's 1844 critique, dealt with the vast lawn on the river side. Here, he planned walks, drives, flower beds, picturesquely placed trees, a large kitchen garden and a pavilion on the crest of a hill midway between Rokeby and the river.

Ehlers' 1849 drawing treats only the entry drive by creating a leisurely carriage path through the grounds. Work probably was completed in 1849 since Ehlers left during the fall for a fourteen month trip to the west. In 1850, his pamphlet An Essay On Climate was printed.

While Rokeby was enlarged in 1857-58, William Backhouse Astor and his family spent a year in Europe. The library tower, service wings and the mansard roof were added. The designer of the exquisite Gothic Revival library with its trefoils and oak-grained paneling is not known. The strength of the design suggests A.J. Davis, but no documentation exists. The younger Ehlers who was often called a rural architect, may have designed the library.

In 1895 Stanford White, partner in McKim, Mead and White and family friend, designed the large formal drawing room, improved access to various parts of the house, and designed modern heating and plumbing systems. He also tried to organize the northeast facade by placing a finely proportioned pediment over what was a jumble of service elements at the rear facade.

Between 1909, when visits were made and a contract signed, and 1912, Margaret Chanler Aldrich contracted Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and his firm to improve the grounds. In reply to a letter of Mrs. Aldrich, Olmsted wrote,

It would be a real pleasure to study one of the old Hudson River country seats with a view to finding out how a flower garden should be made to harmonize with the spirit of the original improvement as well as the natural features of the landscape. A little problem that calls for an exercise of sympathetic appreciation and delicate handling and which is worth doing well interests me much more than a big undertaking that demands chiefly executive ability to put it through.

In Olmsted's memorandum of a 1910 trip to Rokeby, he noted that on the train from New York he "read A.J. Downing all the way up."

Although work at Rokeby continued in 1912, it appears that most of the work was done in 1911. A 1911 planting list indicated that the preliminary work was both lengthy and involved, complicated by problems with workmen, superintendence and materials, invariably resulting in cost overruns. Louis S. Adams was the member of Olmsted's office in charge of Rokeby. He prepared the January 28, 1911 grading plan which was revised on February 16, 1911. Three Adams drawings of September 1911, were approved by Olmsted. Later, in 1922, Mrs. Aldrich contact Adams to design the replanting of some flower beds and the formal garden.

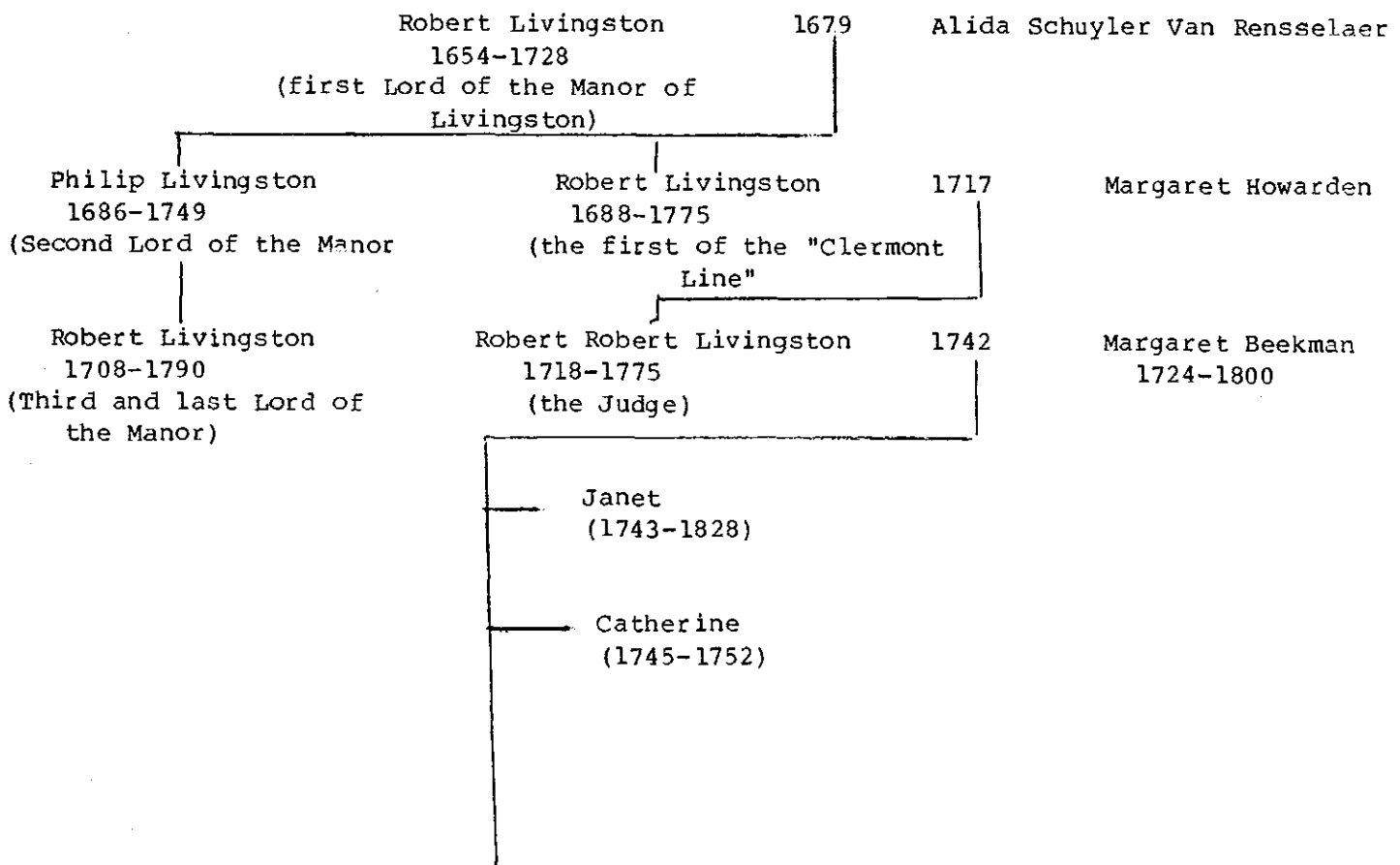
B. Historical Context:

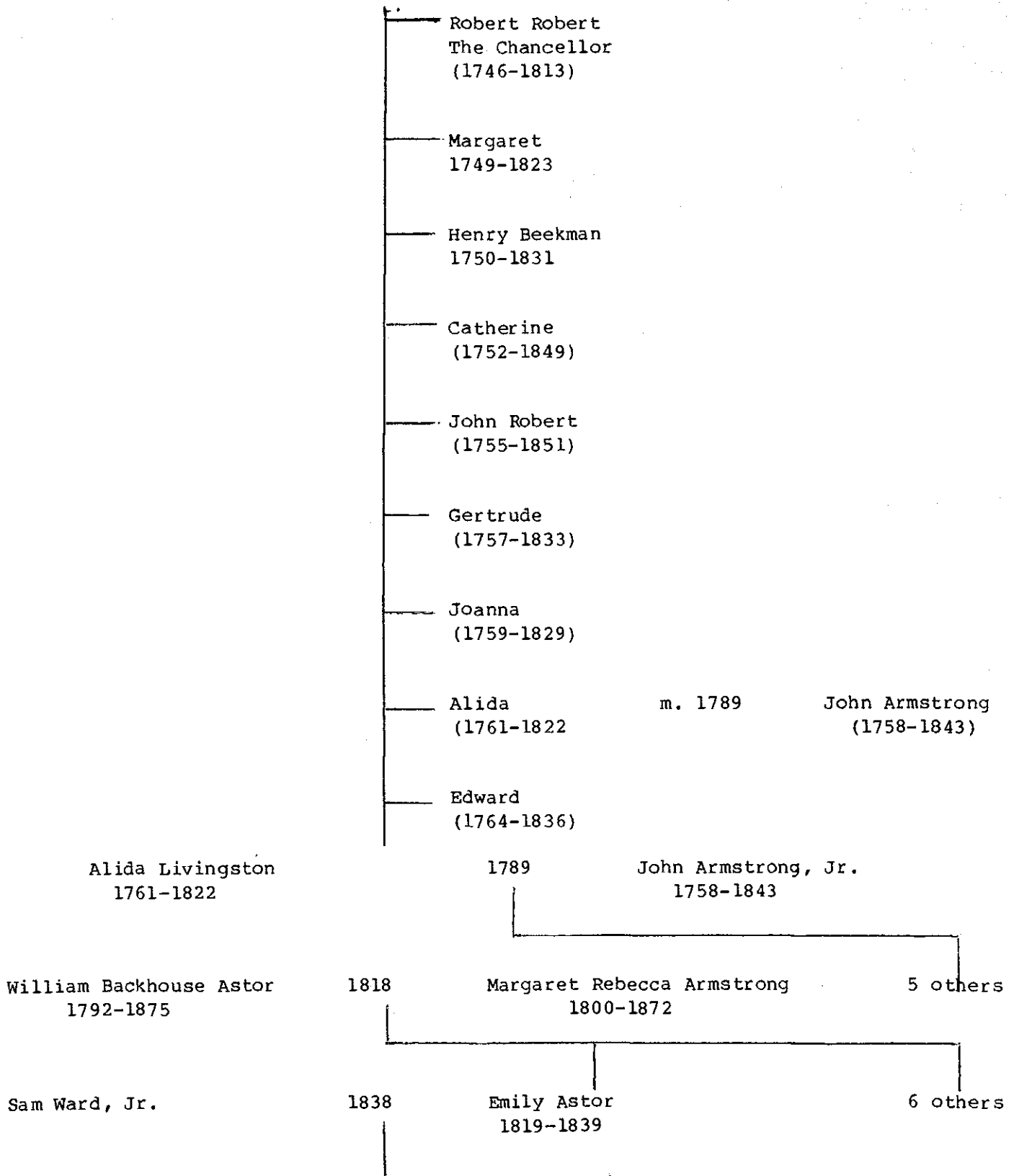
1. The Livingston family was one of the most powerful influences in the affairs of the colony, the early statehood of New York, and the United States. In June 1673, Robert Livingston (1654-1728), a

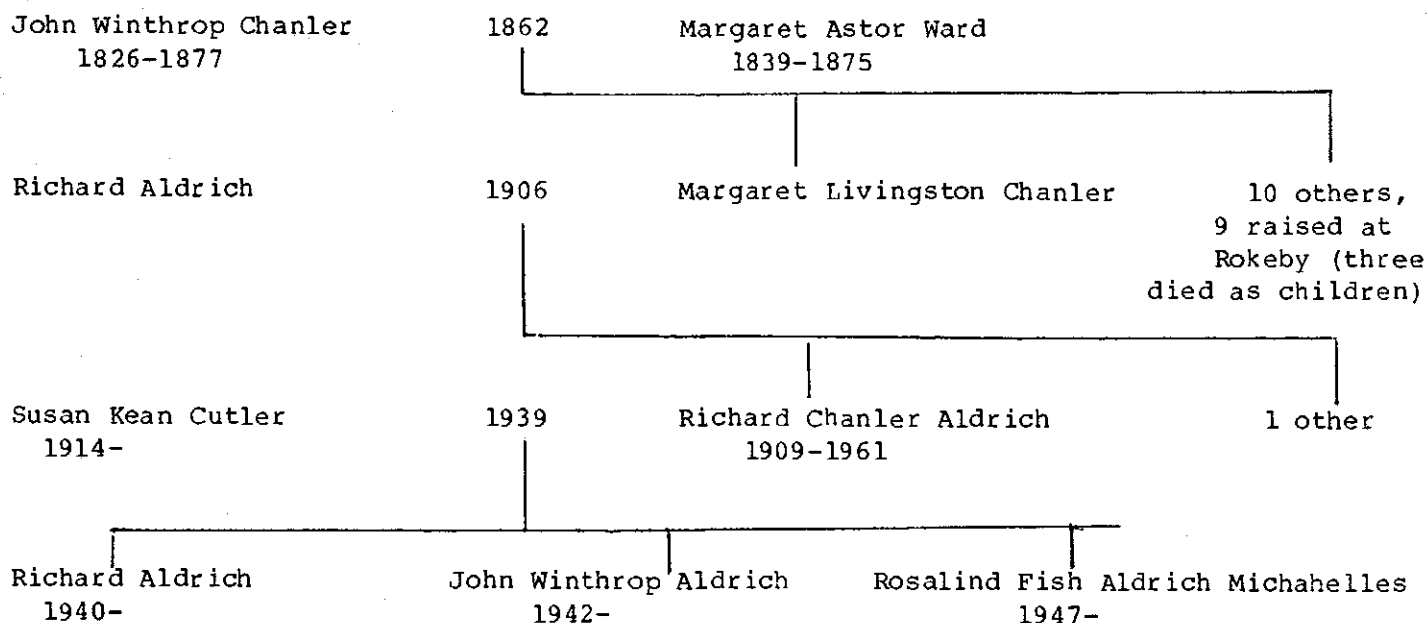
nineteen year old Protestant Scot who had lived and worked in the Netherlands, arrived in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He soon moved to Albany, New York, where his skills in English and Dutch led to a series of minor official posts. Alert to opportunity, he soon married a prominent widow, made two separate land purchases totalling 2600 acres, and confirmed a patent which formed a manor of 160,000 acres.

As first Lord of the Livingston Manor, Livingston's status and wealth advanced. His son Philip (1686-1749), the eldest to survive, became second Lord of the Manor. His next oldest son, Robert (1683-1775) received 13,000 acres of the manor in reward for discovering and preventing a rebellion among the family's slaves. This became the basis of the holdings of the Clermont line of the family. Robert's only child was named Robert Robert (1718-1775) and was referred to, as a result of later judicial office, as the Judge, to distinguish him from the many other Roberts in the family. Judge Robert Robert Livingston married an only child, Margaret Beekman, heir to the vast land holdings of Henry Beekman in Dutchess and Ulster counties. They had eleven children, only one of whom did not attain majority. These children, raised in the family's mansion, Clermont, overlooking the Hudson, and in New York City, built a series of houses along a sixteen mile stretch of the east bank of the Hudson, south of Clermont.

The following genealogy describes the Livingston-Montgomery line:







La Bergerie was one of the Livingston houses along the Hudson, built between 1811 and 1815 by John and Alida Livingston Armstrong. Alida Livingston Armstrong was the youngest daughter of Judge Robert R. and Margaret Beekman Livingston. In her late teens and early twenties she expressed an interest in the active, fashionable life of New York city and she wrote of herself, "She finds that place to agree better with her than the hills of Clermont." (Alida Livingston to Nancy Sheaffe, 30 June (1780), New York Historical Society, New York, New York) In November 1780, she wrote to Miss Sheaffe, "The idea of a Cold disagreeable Voyage makes me tremble; But either that, or a solitary winter at Clermont!" But life at Clermont was not without its diversions.

I was two nights ago made happy by my dear Nancy's letter without date, it found me -- shall I say disconsolate, for the departure of three amiable Friends and one little Angel. On Monday last we accompanied them as far as Rhinebeck, where we spent an agreeable day, & in the evening with cards & dancing, after a Fife and Violen. Your Friend Major Jackson my partner, by mutual consent we forgot the melancholy scene which the next day was to produce, & by that prudent determination our evening passed delightfully. And it has passed -- but not from my mind.

(Alida Livingston to Nancy Sheaffe, 2 September n.d., New York Historical Society)

John Armstrong, Jr., the man who gained Alida Livingston's hand in marriage in 1789, was an acerbic man of position, ambition, and talent. Born in Pennsylvania in 1758, his father was known as the

"Hero of Kitanning," an important engagement of the French and Indian Wars (1756-1763). While a student at Princeton, the Revolution began and Armstrong enlisted in the Army. He became an aide-de-camp to General Horatio Gates, a man for whom he held great affection and esteem. Armstrong left Gates to serve as Adjutant General of the Southern Army, became ill, and returned to serve with Gates.

In 1783 while quartered in Newburgh, New York, Armstrong, reportedly at the urging of Gates, wrote the "Newburgh letters," in which he urged the officers of the revolutionary army, whose salaries Congress could not pay, to take control of the government from the ineffectual Congress. At the time Washington called the letters scurrilous, but later indicated that he believed that Armstrong's intentions were honorable. After the war Armstrong returned to Pennsylvania where he served as a member of the Congress of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and also as its Adjutant General and Secretary of State. By 1789 he had met, courted and married Alida Livingston and moved to New York state.

Janet Livingston Montgomery had purchased the site of Montgomery Place and was awaiting a "proper" plan from Paris when she wrote her brother, Chancellor Robert Livingston, "My sisters are well except Alida, who still gives us a child every year and loses everyday her constitution -- Armstrong house is now completely filled with physical books, Doctors and Medicine. He now talks of building next to me." (Janet L. Montgomery to Robert R. Livingston, 29 May 1802, New York Historical Society)

La Bergerie was not Armstrong's first building venture. He wrote to his former commander and friend, General Horatio Gates,

I am about to build the handsomest house ... upon the North River ... but I must reserve all I mean to say about the plan of this edifice for Mrs. Gates as she is a sister architect ... in an area, little larger than that of the house I now inhabit, I shall have more and better rooms.

(Armstrong to Gates, 29 November 1794, New York Historical Society) Armstrong also wrote to Rufus King's agent when he learned King was thinking of settling in the area. Among available properties were two Armstrong had built for himself, The Meadows and Mill Hill.

... the grounds are Beautiful, the House is new built of the best materials, & in the best manner. The dining room & the drawing room, which communicate are 19 x 24' each, there is a small Library, pantry, & Hall, on the same floor and on the second floor four handsome bedrooms.

(Armstrong to Rufus King's agent, 4 October 1798, New York Historical Society)

Armstrong's interest in landscape gardening indicates that Armstrong probably designed the plans for the grounds of Rokeby. The grounds of The Meadows, also an Armstrong design and later known as DeVeaux Park, were described by J.H. Smith as presenting "perhaps the finest aspects of English park scenery of any on the Hudson."

In 1801 Armstrong was elected to the Senate and moved his six children to Kingston for their education while he served in Washington. He was reelected to the Senate in 1803, but resigned in late 1804 to succeed his brother-in-law, Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, as Minister to France. He lived in France through 1810, returning to America in 1811 to manage his estates and begin construction of La Bergerie. Building was interrupted in 1812 by Armstrong's commission as a Brigadier General in the preparations for the War of 1812. In the fall of 1812 he was nominated by President James Madison to be Secretary of War and was confirmed by the Senate early the next year. He resigned after criticism that he allowed the British to burn Washington. He retired from public life and devoted his attentions to completing La Bergerie. When the cottage the Armstrongs were living in burned in 1815, the family moved into the unfinished house "to the music of hammers and saws."

In 1818 the Armstrong's only daughter, Margaret Rebecca, married William Backhouse Astor. Alida Livingston Armstrong died in 1822 at sixty-one, and Margaret Astor became her father's hostess. The Astors spent summers at Rokeby and in 1836 Astor paid Armstrong \$50,000 for title to Rokeby and its 728 acres. Because the Mudder Kill (a stream on the farm) Glenn reminded Margaret of the glen in Sir Walter Scott's poem, Rokeby, La Bergerie was renamed Rokeby. Armstrong spent his remaining winters with his son Henry Beekman Armstrong in Red Hook and returned to Rokeby in summer.

In 1848 Astor conveyed the southernmost portion of Rokeby to his son-in-law, Franklin H. Delano. To this 95-acre parcel he added an additional five acres in 1851, bringing the total gift to 100 acres. On this estate Astor's daughter, Laura, and her husband (who was a great-uncle of Franklin Delano Roosevelt) established their country seat, Steen Valetje, a large brick Tuscan style villa. In 1866 Astor conveyed the next most southern portion of Rokeby, a parcel of 142 acres, to his youngest son, Henry. Henry Astor built a brick dwelling on this land, but in 1873 conveyed the property to his sister Laura. In 1875 Franklin H. Delano doubled the size of his estate by buying the 254 acre Feller-Benner farm, immediately to the south.

The Astor's eldest child, Emily, born in 1819, married Sam Ward, Jr., brother of Julia Ward Howe, in 1838, and died the next year after giving birth to a daughter, Margaret Astor Ward, who was raised by her grandparents at Rokeby. In 1862 she married John Winthrop Chanler, a congressman elected during the Civil War; they had eleven children before her death in December 1875, after a chill contracted at her grandfather's funeral in November. John Winthrop Chanler died in 1877, thus leaving nine surviving children, aged 4 to 14, orphans. They remained at Rokeby, supervised by a cousin with a series of tutors and governesses.

The Chanlers achieved varying measures of fame beyond their status as wealthy Astor orphans; many retained their Rokeby and Dutchess county ties. John Armstrong Chanler acquired Orlot, the nearby river estate his father had taken after the death of his wife. Robert Winthrop Chanler, known as "Sheriff Bob" of Dutchess County, was also a talented muralist whose work decorates Rokeby, Orlot and Callender House. Elizabeth Winthrop Chanler married John Jay Chapman in 1898 and hired architect Charles Platt to design Sylvania, the estate just north of Rokeby. Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler was a successful criminal lawyer and reform politician who was elected Lieutenant Governor of New York in 1906. He lost to Charles Evans Hughes in the gubernatorial election of 1908.

Margaret Livingston Chanler gained sole possession of Rokeby from her brothers and sisters in 1899 and established a dairy farm. Active in the woman's movement, she was influenced by her great-aunt, Julia Ward Howe, and founded the Women's Municipal League, a predecessor of the League of Women Voters. During the Spanish-American War, when two of her brothers became Rough Riders, she worked in hospitals and was called the "Angel of Puerto Rico." Subsequently, she was instrumental in the creation of the Women's Army Nursing Corps. In 1906 she married Richard Aldrich, music critic for The New York Times.

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original architectural drawings:

Louis Adams, landscaping plans, 1911 and 1922, Rokeby Collection.

Hans Jacob Ehlers, landscaping plans, 1849 and n.d., Rokeby Collection

B. Old views: Drawings, paintings and photographs in the family collection at Rokeby, including twelve photographs taken before the alterations by Stanford White.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

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3. Likely sources not investigated: Livingston Collection at the
New York Public Library and the Museum of the City of New York.

D. Supplemental Material:

John Armstrong's French Empire furnishings were given to his son,
Horatio Gates Armstrong, and destroyed in a fire in Baltimore. Three
items of furniture by Alexander Roux, similar to designs illustrated in
A.J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses, were exhibited in the
Metropolitan Museum of Art's Nineteenth Century American show and
illustrated in the catalog, Nineteenth Century America: Furniture and
Other Decorative Arts, 1970.

Prepared by Kevin Harrington, 1973
Edited by Susan Stein, 1981

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was sponsored jointly by the National Park Service and the Dutchess County Landmarks Association, with a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts; measured and drawn during the summer of 1973 under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), by Richard Crowley (Architect, Rhinebeck), Project Supervisor, with Kevin Harrington (Cornell University), Historian, Thomas R. Hauck (Ohio State University), and Joseph Bilell (Washington University), Architects, and Gerald Karr (University of Colorado), and Mary Lou Oehrlein (Iowa State University), Student Assistant Architects at Rhinebeck, New York. The historical and descriptive data was edited for HABS in 1981 by Susan Stein, Architectural Historian. Final preparation of the documentation was carried out in the HABS Washington Office by Paul Dolinsky, HABS Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, HABS Writer/Editor.

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